



MVP News Beat

MVP Program: A Year in Review

Inside this issue:

Cemetery clean up	2
Bike Rodeo	2
Old Glory	2
Good Day for A Scalpin!	3
CRIM	4
Finger Lickin' Good!	5
And much more...	

Special points of interest:

- **How to become a MVP Volunteer**
- **How to get involved in your community**
- **How to catch an on line predator**
- **What we do outside of volunteer time**

This has been a great year for the MVP program! Under Officer O'Neal's guidance and the supervision of the Mundy Township P.D., the volunteerism for our community has grown by leaps and bounds. The MVP's have had numerous fun and exciting opportunities to participate and serve in the community; in giving back a little to those who give up so much of their time and safety to protect and serve us.

Some of the many programs we have had the privilege to participate in are highlighted in the following pages: the cemetery clean up, Web Wise kids, Swartz Creek home Town Days, Flag retiring ceremony, Bike Rodeo, the CRIM and our annual MVP

BBQ and Christmas party. Not to mention those who weekly volunteer to ride the 36 sq. mile of territory that comprise the township, looking for bad signs and watching for speeders; just to name a few!

Since its inception, the MVP program began with a few volunteer and has grown to over 70 members in the last 4 years. Each year, the number of volunteer hours has doubled and we passed Officer O'Neal's 2006 goal of 3000 volunteer hours by 500! Quite an accomplishment for a small group that has only been around for a short time. Way to go MVP's!

This last class of the Citizen's Police Academy was the larg-

est by far of 35 members. We are hoping to double our vol-



Newest recruits at the MVP Volunteer Graduation ceremony

unteer hours to 5000 in 2007, as well as double the number of members to be awarded the Presidential award for volunteerism of 100 hours or more this calendar year. Andrea Mraz set a high bar of over 250 hours to get the silver award. We're dedicated, we can do it!

So you want to join the police academy?

So how do you become a Mundy Township Police Volunteer? It's really very simple. You join the Citizens Police Academy! Every fall the Police Department holds an 11 week course, consisting of one night a week class. The subject matter deals with various topics to educate the community resident in what it is the police department does on a daily basis. It's really a way of building bridges between law enforcement and the community to help make our community a safer place to live. It's very empowering and educating to learn the interesting and dangerous things our police force does daily to protect us. What you'll gain from taking this class is a better understanding and respect for just what it is they do, as well as have an opportunity to learn some of the tricks of the trade and a better understanding of the law. Have you ever had to "walk the line", well you'll get that chance as well as see what the inside of a prison looks like; incase you ever wondered! See you soon!



Trustee Joe Oskey and MVP Andrea Mraz re-setting head stones

Cemetery Clean up

Mundy Twp Trustee Joe Oskey, Andrea Mraz, Michelle Guevara and a host of other courageous MVP souls braved the bitter wilds of the dense, man eating brush, Amazoniac heat and killer bees of the Mount Hope Cemetery, over that past year. It was a daunting, yet fruitful effort by Mraz and Oskey in their task to give the cemetery a much needed face lift. Many of the tomb stones were over grown by wild brush or had completely disappeared under feet of grass and dirt. Lot

of work, sweat and effort was poured out by everyone involved in literally digging up head stones, not graves, re-setting broken stones and cleaning around the sites, making sure those who have gone before us, have a respectable place of rest for their loved ones to come visit.

Interestingly enough, we discovered there are some very old graves in the cemetery that date back to the 1800's. There is still more work to be done this spring at Mount Hope, and once

finished Mraz and her traveling cleaning crew will be heading out to start another cemetery project in Mundy Twp. Rumor has it that there is an extremely old cemetery lost somewhere off of Jennings Rd by the airport. Reports have it that this has Ms. Mraz trekking off into the wilderness and knocking on doors for information. If you know of the whereabouts of the cemetery, please contact the Mundy Township Police Dept.



Doesn't look like he went to the bike rodeo!

Home Depot-Bike Rodeo

Every year the Mundy Township Police department holds a bike rodeo at the Hill Rd Home Depot store parking lot. This program is a fun way for kids and parents to learn safety precautions procedures for riding bicycles on public roads. Many people may not realize exactly what's in-

involved in being safe while riding your bike. When it comes to our children, every parent should and would like to know how to prevent serious or severe injuries to their children as they learn the safety rules of riding on public streets.

Not only is it an educational

experience, it is also a fun time to be had by all.

Old Glory

Did you know burning the flag is legal? But there is a proper way to do it!

Did you know burning the flag is legal, but there is a proper way to do it!

Who knew that you could legally burn the flag, if you followed proper procedure. I discovered this at the July 4th flag retiring ceremony at the New Life Wesleyan church off of Linden road in Swartz Creek. With the help of the

Boy Scouts and our local Republican State Representative Mr. Robinson, Old Glory was systematically disassembled, strip by strip. Her story was read and each ribbon of color and all her stars were retired into the fire and saluted in a poetic round of pomp and circumstance of black smoke.



Good Day for a Scalpin' - Carni style!

This was the first year the MVP's helped the Swartz Creek Police Department keep up an authoritative presence during their annual parade and weekend carnival. During the parade, we made sure the streets were safely blocked so the parade participants and those watching could enjoy themselves without fear of being run down! Even our own MVP Miss Linda joined in the fun with

some of the parade participants, despite the rain. I hope their not still upset over the whole taking over the west issue! While the objective of the MVP's presence during the carnival was to give the appearance of a larger police presence, much of the public was unaware of our "unofficial" status and those that knew we were volunteers, actually appreciated the extra pair of eyes and ears in help-

ing deter problems with the local and visiting ruffians. Two lost children were helped in locating their parents, and armed with walkie-talkies, numerous teen fist-a-cuffs were either deterred or intercepted, thanks to some quick thinking, MVP style. Over all crime during the carnival was down according to the Swartz Creek PD thanks in part to the help of the MVP volunteers. Way to go gang!



Good day for a scalpin'!

CRIM

Once again the MVP's blocked off 12 intersections off Chevrolet Street in Flint near Kettering University for the annual CRIM race. It was a chilly, early... very early August morning where we were given our task: Do not allow any vehicles onto Chevrolet after 7 AM. I don't

think the public got the memo. Neither bribes nor tears swayed us from our objective. We were resolute in our task, but unfortunately some thought their plight of getting around the block more important than ours of keeping the street safe. One "gentleman" had the misfor-

tune of ignoring Officer O'Neil's 2nd warning of clearing the road and we saw another side of Officer O'Neil that made me realize the exact reasons why he has a right to proudly wear the uniform. It's all "yes sir, no sir" from here on out!



Street Duty at the CRIM

Finger Lickin' Good!

What better way to meet the rest of the MVP gang and swap some volunteer stories than to get together around what else... food! This year the MVP's organized a barbecue picnic at the Torrey Hills Park Club house. Everyone brought a dish to pass and the

rest of their families, and we all ate way too much!

We shared burgers and dogs, salads and cookies, cakes and calories! Not to mention meeting the better halves of the MVP volunteers and their families. Officer O'Neil and the Chief passed out CPR

certificates and awards to those deserving volunteers.



Volunteers enjoying a little BQ, R&R

F.E.M.A



Caption describing picture or graphic.

You can get your certification in the Federal Emergency Medical Association organizations certification, by completing the courses Officer O'Neil has available through the station. All the courses can be completed on line and can be done, realistically in 2 days time.

If you choose to, you can do the tests at the station and Officer O'Neil will send them

in. Once you pass all of them, well, you will be one of the few prepared for any and all natural and unfortunately, human created disasters. They even have a course on how to handle animals in disastrous situations. If one of the answers is to leave my pets to their own luck, well ...I guess I'll just have to skip that question!

Web Wise Kids: Catch an On-Line Predator

Web Wise Kids- To catch an on-line predator, was based on a true story.

This is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to navigate and be safe on the internet.

The game was based on a true story. Within the school scenario, the kids are given a pre test survey to gage their understanding of how dangerous they feel it is for them to give away personal information. They then, with the help of

Office Gage and MVP volunteers, follow clues of a child that has disappeared on line and must use these clues to catch their suspect. According to Adrian, a MP volunteer who has very helpful in a few of these school courses, she says most kids actually learn and realize how dangerous it is to give away personal infor-

mation over the net. This isn't usually realized until after they have finished the program and have taken a short test over the material and then are given a post test survey. Quite the modern Hardey Boys, Nancy Drew thing, but with a twist; Those of us who are old enough to remember



The now County Treasurer, Ex-Chief Dave Guigear and his wife enjoy their Christmas dinner.

Christmas Party

What a way to close out the year! The MVP's were treated to a wonderful dinner by the department. There were some new faces. Many of the newly graduated members were there and we had a wonderful time getting to know them better. We also took some

time to wrap up the year by awarding those MVP's who made it past the 100 hours mark. Congrats to Gary Burton and Ernie Eckhart "Bert & Ernie" as we affectionately call them, Andrea and Clayton and our honorary MVP, Ken Mraz for the hours of

sacrifice he contributed for his wife's preoccupation to the MVP web site and all his help in its conception.

It was a great way to end a year of contributing back to our community. Thanks for the memories!

MUNDY TOWNSHIP POLICE VOLUNTEERS

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As always, we are at your service!

We are on the web at:

<http://mundytwp-mi.gov/police.asp>

The Mundy Township Police Department, exist to serve all people with respect, fairness, and compassion. We are committed to the prevention of crime and the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order and safety; the enforcement of laws and ordinances; and the safeguarding of Constitutional Guarantees.

Check us out on line to get a more comprehensive look at what we are doing this calendar year!

So You Think You Can Too?



**Become an MVP and
help your community**

So, after hearing all of the fun and exciting this we do through the MVP program, you think you can do this? We think you too can and would love to have you join us!

The Mundy Township Police department has assigned Officer Ron O'Neil as the Community Policing Officer to handle all of the community programs and activities. I can think of no better way to give back to my community than to get involved in the things that will make a difference in

the life of my family and community. Think about it...you can directly be involved in helping with child safety through the Web Wise program, public safety by volunteering your time to keep downtown Swartz Creek safer my just being a presence and support our men in blue.

Lets face it, they have a tough job. I for one appreciate all they do and I am glad to do my small part!

See you soon!

Photos: M.Guevara

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If you would like to contribute to future MVP Newsbeat news letters, drop Office O'Neil a line. I could use the help!